

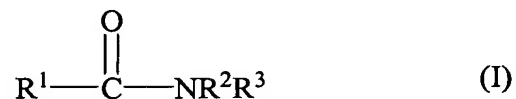
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A cosmetic or pharmaceutical composition comprising:

A) at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer obtained ~~obtainable~~ by free-radical copolymerization of:

- a) 5 to 90% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of acrylamide and/or methacrylamide,
- b) 0 to 85% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one α,β -ethylenically unsaturated amide-containing compound of the formula I



where

R^1 is a group of the formula $\text{CH}_2=\text{CR}^4$ - where $\text{R}^4 = \text{H}$ or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$, and R^2 and R^3 , independently of one another, are each H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or hetaryl, with the proviso that one of the radicals R^2 or ~~and~~ R^3 is different from H, or R^2 and R^3 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded are a five- to eight-membered heterocycle,

or R^2 is a group of the formula $\text{CH}_2=\text{CR}^4$ - and R^1 and R^3 , independently of one another, are each H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or hetaryl, or R^1 and R^3 together with the amide group to which they are bonded are a lactam with 5 to 8 ring atoms,

- c) 0 to 40% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one unsaturated, water-soluble compound, which is different from components a) and b), and copolymerizable therewith,

where the proportion by weight of the sum of components b) and c) is at least 5% by weight,

optionally, in the presence of up to 25% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one water-soluble component d), which is selected ~~chosen~~ from the group consisting of:

- d1) polyether-containing compounds,
 - d2) polymers which have at least 50% by weight repeat units derived from vinyl alcohol,
 - d3) starch and starch derivatives,
and mixtures thereof[.,,]; and
- B) at least one cosmetically acceptable carrier.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~where~~ component b) comprises at least one compound selected ~~chosen~~ from the group consisting of N-vinyl lactams, N-vinyl amides of saturated monocarboxylic acids, N-alkyl- and N,N-dialkyl amides of α,β -ethylenically unsaturated monocarboxylic acids and mixtures thereof.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The A composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~either of the preceding claims, wherein~~ ~~where~~ component c) comprises at least one compound ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of esters of α,β -ethylenically unsaturated mono- and

dicarboxylic acids with aminoalcohols, their N-alkyl- and N,N-dialkyl derivatives; esters of vinyl alcohol with monocarboxylic acids; vinyl- and allyl-substituted heteroaromatic compounds; amides of α,β -ethylenically unsaturated mono- and dicarboxylic acids with diamines which have a tertiary and a primary or secondary amino group; polyether acrylates; and mixtures thereof.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~The A composition as claimed in claim 1 any of the preceding claims, where~~ wherein component B) is selected ~~chosen~~ from the group consisting of:

- i) water,
 - ii) water-miscible organic solvents[[,]] ~~preferably~~ C₁-C₄-alkanols,
 - iii) oils, fats, waxes,
 - iv) esters of C₆-C₃₀-monocarboxylic acids with mono-, di- or trihydric alcohols different from iii),
 - v) saturated acyclic and cyclic hydrocarbons,
 - vi) fatty acids,
 - vii) fatty alcohols
- and mixtures thereof.

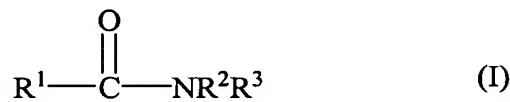
Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~The A composition as claimed in claim 1 any of the preceding claims, further comprising at least one constituent different from copolymer A A),~~ which is selected ~~chosen~~ from the group consisting of cosmetically active ingredients, emulsifiers, surfactants, preservatives, perfume oils, thickeners, hair polymers, hair and skin conditioners, graft polymers, water-soluble or dispersible silicone-containing polymers, light protection agents, bleaching agents, gel formers, care agents, colorants, tinting agents,

tanning agents, dyes, pigments, consistency-imparting agents, humectants, refatting agents, collagen, protein hydrolysates, lipids, antioxidants, antifoams, antistats, emollients and softeners.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The A composition as claimed in claim 1, any of the preceding claims wherein the composition is in the form of a gel, foam, spray, an ointment, cream, emulsion, suspension, lotion, milk or paste.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A copolymer A), as defined in any of claims 1 to 3 obtained by free-radical copolymerization of:

- a) 5 to 90% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of acrylamide and/or methacrylamide,
- b) 0 to 90% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one α,β -ethylenically unsaturated amide-containing compound of the formula I



where

R¹ is a group of the formula CH₂=CR⁴- where R⁴ = H or C₁-C₄-alkyl, and R² and R³, independently of one another, are each H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or hetaryl, with the proviso that one of the radicals R² or R³ is different from H, or R² and R³ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded are a five- to eight-membered heterocycle,

or R² is a group of the formula CH₂=CR⁴- and R¹ and R³, independently of one another, are each H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or hetaryl, or R¹ and R³ together with the amide group to which they are bonded are a lactam with 5 to 8 ring atoms,

- c) 0 to 40% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one unsaturated, water-soluble compound, which is different from components a) and b), and copolymerizable therewith,

where the proportion by weight of the sum of components b) and c) is at least 5% by weight,

optionally in the presence of up to 25% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one water-soluble component d), which is selected from the group consisting of:

- d1) polyether-containing compounds,
- d2) polymers which have at least 50% by weight repeat units derived from vinyl alcohol,
- d3) starch and starch derivatives,
and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The A copolymer A) as claimed in claim 7 obtained
obtainable by free-radical copolymerization of:

- a) 10 to 45% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of methacrylamide,
- b) 60 to 90% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of vinylpyrrolidone and/or vinylcaprolactam,

c) 0 to 25% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one unsaturated, water-soluble compound, different from a) and b), and copolymerizable therewith,

optionally, in the presence of up to 20% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of polymers d2) and/or starch and starch derivatives d3).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The A copolymer A) as claimed in claim 8, obtained obtainable by free-radical polymerization of:

- a) 20 to 40% by weight of methacrylamide,
- b) 40 to 70% by weight of vinylpyrrolidone,

in the presence of from 1 to 20% by weight of polymers d2) and/or starch and starch derivatives d3).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The A copolymer A) as claimed in claim 8, obtained obtainable by free-radical polymerization of

- a) 30 to 40% by weight of methacrylamide,
- b) 20 to 60% by weight of vinylpyrrolidone and
1 to 20% by weight of vinylcaprolactam.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The A copolymer A) as claimed in claim 7, obtained obtainable by free-radical polymerization of

- a) 20 to 40% by weight of methacrylamide,
- b) 40 to 70% by weight of vinylpyrrolidone and
- c) 1 to 20% by weight of at least one water-soluble compound, different from a) and b), and copolymerizable therewith.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The A copolymer A) as claimed in claim 7, obtained
~~obtainable~~ by free-radical copolymerization of

- a) 5 to 50% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of methacrylamide,
- b) 40 to 85% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one compound selected ~~chosen~~ from the group consisting of vinylpyrrolidone, vinylcaprolactam, N,N-dimethylacrylamide and mixtures thereof,
- c) 0.2 to 20% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one unsaturated, water-soluble compound, different from a) and b), and copolymerizable therewith, which is selected ~~chosen~~ from the group consisting of vinylimidazole and derivatives thereof, polyether acrylates and mixtures thereof,

optionally in the presence of up to 10% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of polymers d2), which are derived from vinyl alcohol, and optionally in the presence of up to 1% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to d), of at least one crosslinker.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The A copolymer A) A as claimed in claim 12, obtained ~~obtainable~~ by free-radical polymerization of

- a) 7 to 45% by weight of methacrylamide,
- b) 50 to 80% by weight of at least one compound selected ~~chosen~~ from the group consisting of vinylpyrrolidone, vinylcaprolactam, N,N-dimethylacrylamide and mixtures thereof,
- c) 0.3 to 10% by weight of at least one compound selected ~~chosen~~ from the group consisting of vinylimidazole and derivatives thereof, polyether acrylates and mixtures thereof,

in the presence of ~~from~~ 0.1 to 10% by weight of polymers d2) which are derived from vinyl alcohol.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The A copolymer A) as claimed in claim 12, obtained ~~obtainable~~ by free-radical polymerization of

- a) 10 to 45% by weight of methacrylamide,
- b) 50 to 80% by weight of vinylpyrrolidone and vinylcaprolactam and
- c) 0.3 to 10% by weight of vinylimidazole and/or a derivative thereof.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The A copolymer A) as claimed in claim 12, obtained ~~obtainable~~ by free-radical polymerization of

- a) 10 to 45% by weight of methacrylamide,
- b) 50 to 80% by weight of vinylpyrrolidone and
- c) 0.5 to 5% by weight of vinylimidazole.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of a copolymer A) A, as claimed ~~defined~~ in claim 7 ~~any of claims 1 to 3 and 7 to 14~~, by free-radical polymerization of the monomers a) with at least one further monomer chosen from the monomers b) and c), optionally in the presence of up to 25% by weight, based on the total weight of components a) to b), of a water-soluble component d), wherein the polymerization is carried out in an aqueous solvent.

Claim 17 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the polymerization is carried out at a pH in the range from 6 to 8.

Claim 18 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the polymerization is carried out at a pH in the range from 6.4 to 7.4.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition is a use of a copolymer A) as defined in any of claims 1 to 3 and 7 to 14 in skin-cleansing composition ~~compositions~~, a composition ~~compositions~~ for the care and protection of the skin, a nail care composition ~~compositions~~, a preparation ~~preparations~~ for decorative cosmetics; a and hair-treatment composition ~~compositions~~ or a coating composition.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the composition is a hair treatment composition ~~use as claimed in claim 19 in hair treatment compositions as setting agents and/or as conditioners.~~

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The composition as claimed in claim 20, wherein ~~use as claimed in claim 20, where~~ the composition is in the form of a hair gel, shampoo, setting foam, hair tonic, hairspray or hair foam.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A method of coating a substrate, comprising applying the copolymer as claimed in claim 7 to a substrate ~~The use of a copolymer A) as defined in any of claims 1 to 3 and 7 to 14, as an auxiliary in pharmacy, preferably as or in (a) coating(s) for solid medicaments and as or in (a) coating(s) for the textile, paper, printing and leather industry.~~

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition is a use of a water soluble copolymer A), as defined in any of claims 1 to 3 and 7 to 14, as graft base, a polymer emulsifier or a protective colloid.

Claim 24 (New): The composition as claimed in claim 20, wherein the composition is a composition for a setting agent and/or a conditioner.

Claim 25 (New): The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the substrate comprises a solid medicament, a textile, paper, a printable source or leather.

Claim 26 (New): A method of making a pharmaceutical composition, comprising adding the copolymer, as claimed in claim 7, as an auxiliary, to one or more pharmaceutical components.

Claim 27 (New): A method of making a composition, comprising contacting the copolymer A), as claimed in claim 7, with one or more additives.